

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, July 18, 2005

Present: Corey, Johnson, Mehigh, Runyan, Sanderson, Spring.

Absent: Wagner.

Guests: Judy Horton; Janet Washburn, Parks & Recreation Director; Shirley Sanderson; Tim Gibson; Bob Buschman; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers by Mayor Corey at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Johnson moved, Runyan seconded to approve the previous regular meeting minutes dated July 5, 2005 as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Sanderson, Runyan, Spring, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS SPECIAL MEETING: Runyan moved, Sanderson seconded to approve the previous special meeting minutes dated July 1, 2005 as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehigh, Runyan.

No: None.

Abstain: Johnson, Spring.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Runyan moved, Johnson seconded to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of Proclamation Presentation Prior to Call to Audience.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Spring, Runyan, Mehigh, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Johnson moved, Sanderson seconded to approve the vendor disbursements dated July 15, 2005 as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Spring, Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

PROCLAMATION PRESENTATION: Mayor Corey presented Tim Gibson with a proclamation in recognition of winning the 2005 title of Mr. Owosso during the Curwood Festival.

CONSIDER INDEPENDENCE COMMITTEE RESIGNATIONS: Johnson moved, Runyan

seconded to accept the resignations of Franklin Rodriguez and Dawn Rodriguez from the Long Term Independent Committee effective immediately with regret.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Spring, Runyan, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Councilperson Mehigh advised the Corunna Ambulance Service is qualified to transport patients who have to have a support breathing mechanism. All of the employees took and passed the test that was required. He further advised the ambulance service is doing well financially.

Councilperson Spring advised something will have to be put on a council agenda as to whether or not the council is going to approve a millage for SATA next year since the Reorganization Committee will not meet the deadline to get a millage on the ballot this year like the committee wanted. He further advised there has been discussion about doing an evaluation on the transportation manager. The biggest opposition was the chairman who did not feel an evaluation was necessary unless a bonus was given for doing a good job. He also advised the board has come around on this and he has created an evaluation and has attached a copy of the transportation manager's job description to it, which should be discussed at the September meeting. Councilperson Spring stated one of the questions that he and Bob Buschman had at the last meeting was in regards to the check register. When the city has a budget crisis, the council looks at cutting services or things from the budget, but after SATA went through their budget crisis, they went out and purchased a \$4,000 lawn mower. Councilperson Spring further stated he went out and looked at it and there is an hour meter on it. Unless he read the hour meter wrong, the mower was only used 27 minutes in one month. He also stated there were travel expenses in excess of \$1,200 from Larry Alpert and he was asked to go through what his expenses were for but he did not have the figures with him. Mr. Alpert advised he went to a transportation expo but no one at this point knows what was learned from the expo, where the \$1,200 was spent or how it was spent. Councilperson Spring advised SATA will not become an authority this year because there is no way to meet the time deadline. The only option the city has at this point of time is to put the SATA millage on the ballot again but the council needs to work a little harder in educating the public as to what has been going on because even though the council sees what is going on not everybody does. He further advised he is planning to discuss SATA at every meeting because there are lots of things going on. He is running into opposition on the Reorganization Committee that things have been funded a certain way for the last 20 years and the committee feels that this is the way it should always be. They believe an authority is the only way to go and they have closed the door to any other alternatives. He also advised the council should not enter into an authority agreement without taking a look at every alternative before jumping into an agreement like the last agreement. Councilperson Mehigh asked what kind of millage SATA was talking about. Councilperson Spring advised it could be up to ½ mill, which is about where the city was at this year. Councilperson Mehigh stated everyone wants the service for the citizens but at what cost. He further stated he does not like the fact that an authority can put something on a ballot independently because the people do not have all of the information they need to make an intelligent vote. Councilperson Sanderson stated it is really important for the public to know what SATA is spending their money on.

Councilperson Spring stated one of things that astounded him was that Larry Alpert does not have to have board approval for purchases under \$5,000, which is ridiculous. Councilperson Sanderson asked if Corunna would be getting more than one representative on the authority board. Councilperson Spring advised the committee has decided to look at other funding alternatives before looking into that issue. Councilperson Johnson asked what the Owosso and Durand representatives, who were against everything that Corunna was fighting for, were thinking now. Councilperson Spring advised he thought Durand was coming around and Owosso's position is that they approved the millage for two years, is putting the most money into the pot and they want to see the most for their money so they are in the same position they were in. Councilperson Runyan stated an evaluation might tell the board that they do not want the person. Mayor Corey advised evaluations are not necessarily tied to salary. Councilperson Spring advised he came prepared for a battle at the last meeting and had information from two or three universities as to the legitimacy of performance evaluations and why they are good. As soon as the information was brought out, everybody seemed to be on board. Mayor Corey stated Councilperson Spring is doing a great job on the SATA board and Reorganization Committee. He went to the last Reorganization Committee meeting and they looked at him as though he was responsible for stalling their progress on the authority contract. Mayor Corey further stated there was a lot of resistance from Ron Sukenik of Caledonia Charter Township, Don Trap and some resistance from Mark Owen from Owosso. Since Owosso Charter Township has been removed from the service area, SATA ridership has dropped from 2,400 to 1,000 but he does not know the reason for this and it makes him wonder what the other 1,400 people are doing because he is sure these people are not sitting on their doorsteps wondering if someone is going to pick them up. He also stated there has to be some reason why the ridership has dropped and suggested the council try to find out why because maybe a more quality system should be developed. Councilperson Mehigh stated it is his understanding the majority of the board at Caledonia Charter Township does not share Mr. Sukenik's feeling about the authority. Councilperson Spring advised the problem he has with the way the contract is written is instead of being more restrictive about what has to be done it is actually less restrictive than the last agreement. Mayor Corey stated he thought the last agreement was fairly well written and yet there was difficulty with the interpretation of the agreement. He further stated the council needs to make a decision by the last meeting in August whether the millage will be put on the ballot in November and suggested putting SATA on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting. Councilperson Mehigh asked if SATA has done an analysis on the percentage of who rides the bus and for what reason. Mayor Corey advised it could not be done that way because no one knows where a specific rider gets on or off at. Councilperson Mehigh stated he thought the driver should be able to get that information for them. Councilperson Sanderson asked where the school system comes in on this. Mayor Corey stated he spoke to John Smith last year and asked if the school system would consider a contribution to SATA and he read in the paper that it would be illegal for them to contribute but he had not done any further research on this. Councilperson Runyan asked Councilperson Spring if he still gets a monthly ridership report for all of the zones. Councilperson Spring advised just a total. Mr. Sawyer stated the city knew a year ago that SATA was over calculating Corunna's ridership and if SATA does not have a deficit this year and Corunna has already collected its money, then he does not know if the millage would have to be put back on the ballot. Mayor Corey advised the city might not know the answer until after it is too late to put the millage on the ballot in November. If the money is not needed, the

city would not have to collect it.

Councilperson Runyan advised the fire board meeting for June was canceled last month.

Councilperson Johnson advised the Economic Development Fund Committee loaned Dux Boats \$100,000.

Councilperson Sanderson advised things are going well at the ambulance service and he hopes it stays that way.

Mayor Corey advised the planning commission has been working on the sign ordinance during the past year and it needs to be finalized by Merilee Lawson. He further advised the commission would be working on an exterior maintenance ordinance this year. There also has been discussion about trying to prevent more of the larger homes from being turned into apartment buildings. Mayor Corey thanked everybody for their participation during the Fourth of July event. He stated the fireworks contract is up this year and he is sure the company will be contacting the city about another contract but it might be time to have other companies submit bids. Mr. Sawyer stated the city would be looking at another multi-year contract again because he thought it worked out well. Mayor Corey advised it would be up to council if they want to go that way.

Mr. Sawyer advised the LEIN audit went well and the city passed with flying colors and a lot of the credit goes to Shelley Spencer who does a great job of record keeping. He further advised the city will have 24-hour coverage when the additional part-time officers complete their training period. He also advised the city received 116 employment applications and city is only allowed to have four part-time officers with the police contract so the city must hire a full-time officer, which should be filled in September. Mr. Sawyer reviewed the police department schedule, which has been prepared one year in advance.

Councilperson Johnson stated one of the part-time officers has had to deal with two traumatic children's death in this area and she would like to congratulate this officer for doing an outstanding job. This officer gave those children every effort to survive and she would like him to know that he is well appreciated.

ADJOURN: Mehig moved, Sanderson seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Sanderson, Mehig, Runyan, Spring.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 8:15 p.m.

STEVE COREY, MAYOR

NICHOLE COWDREY, CITY CLERK/TREASURER